

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SYE-00 SSO-00 USSS-00
NSCE-00 FBIE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00
SS-15 /051 W

-----126482 020048Z /75

O 012331Z FEB 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9343

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0332

DEPT FOR SY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ASEC, ARAB LEAGUE

SUBJ: SECURITY - ARAB LEAGUE OFFICES NEW YORK AND OTHERS

REF: USUN 76

1. WHITE HOUSE MEMORANDUM OF JAN 18, 1978 APPROVED EXECUTIVE PROTECTIVE SERVICE (EPS) COVERAGE PRESENTLY IN EFFECT IN NEW YORK CITY FOR TOTAL OF THIRTY DAYS COMMENCING JAN 19, 1978. THIS MEMORANDUM DIRECTS THAT ALL FUTURE REQUESTS FOR THIS TYPE OF PROTECTION BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST SIX DAYS PRIOR TO PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE. EPS COVERAGE IS BEING PROVIDED, DURING BUSINESS HOURS, AT FOLLOWING LOCATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY, WHICH ARE LOCATED ABOVE STREET LEVEL: ISRAELI UN MISSION, SYRIAN UN MISSION, CONSULTATE GENERAL OF EGYPT, PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION, AND LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES.

2. IN COMPLIANCE WITH WHITE HOUSE MEMORANDUM OF DEC 20, 1977
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(REFTEL), INFORMATION TO SUPPORT CONTINUED COVERAGE IS HERWITH PROVIDED: ON JAN 27, 1978, DUE TO PRESENCE OF EGYPTIAN AMB TO US ASHRAF GHORBAL, A RELIGIOUS SERVICE AT TEMPLE ISRAEL, NEW YORK CITY, WAS DISRUPTED BY MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS "COALITION AGAINST IMPOSED MID-EAST SOLUTIONS" (CLAIMS). TWO OF GROUP WERE ARRESTED BY NEW YORK POLICE. THIS ORGANIZATION, NEWLY FORMED BY RABBI MEIR KAHANE, IS COMMITTED

TO PROTESTING ANY MID-EAST SOLUTION THAT INCLUDES RETURNING LANDS NOW OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL. DETERMINATION OF GROUP WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY ACTION BEING TAKEN DURING SABBATH SERVICES. OFFICE OF ARAB LEAGUE CONTINUES TO BE SUBJECT OF HARASSMENT. ACCORDING TO REPORTS OBTAINED BY POLICE, ARAB LEAGUE CONSTANTLY RECEIVES MAIL WHICH CONTAINS OBSCENE EPITHETS. (NUMEROUS COPIES OF AD FROM NEW YORK TIMES (REFTE) WITH OBSCENITIES WRITTEN ACROSS PAGE POUCHED IO/UNP - LOU HAGE AND SY - V. DIKEOS.) IN ADDITION, ON JAN 31, 1978, BUILDING IN WHICH ARAB LEAGUE LOCATED RECEIVED CALL FROM MALE WHO STATED THERE WERE FOUR TO EIGHT BOMBS IN BUILDING. POLICE RESPONDED AND CONDUCTED SEARCH WHICH PROVED NEGATIVE. FURTHER JUSTIFICATION CONTAINED IN REFTEL FOR CONTINUANCE OF EPS AT FIVE OFFICES STILL REMAINS CURRENT AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

3. SITUATION UNDERLYING IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING EPS AT THE POSTS REQUESTED REMAINS VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED. LEVEL OF TENSION CONTINUES HIGH, EXACERBATED BY THE VOCIFEROUS EXCHANGES BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IN PRESS AND OTHER NEWS MEDIA SINCE SUSPENSION OF JERUSALEM PEACE TALKS. THIS DEVELOPMENT AND MOST RECENT ISRAELI POSITION ON CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS HAS OF COURSE RECEIVED WIDEST POSSIBLE PUBLICITY IN NEW YORK CITY. THE DIVISIVE IMPACT OF SADAT INITIATIVES WITHIN ARAB COMMUNITY HERE MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED, AS SHOULD ALSO THE EXPECTED RESPONSE FROM GROUPS SUCH AS "CLAIMS" CONFIDENTIAL

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IF NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVE RETURN OF ISRAELI OCCUPIED LANDS. WHILE THE PUBLIC IS STILL OFF GUARD AND UNCERTAIN AS TO FUTURE MOVES IN MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY, IT SEEMS PARTICULARLY COMPELLING THAT THERE BE NO RELAXATION IN ASSIGNMENTS OF EPS. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROTECTIVE SECURITY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780049-0148
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802103/aaaadjsm.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 837d6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 76
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3436799
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY - ARAB LEAGUE OFFICES NEW YORK AND OTHERS
TAGS: PORG, ASEC, XF, US, ARAB LEAGUE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/837d6dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014